

and African American communities, including tolerance, equal rights, and justice. As a Jewish American, it is an honor to fight for these values here in Congress today and every day.

RALLYING TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the situation unfolding in Iraq is a tragedy.

Almost 4,500 fellow Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq defending our freedom and fighting oppression and tyranny. More than 32,000 men and women who served our country in Iraq bear the wounds of war, and all who served had extraordinary pressures put on their families.

Unless you have lived it, one cannot begin to know the pain experienced by the families of the fallen and the wounded. Our men and women in uniform fought for an ideal. That ideal is freedom: the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom to assemble and vote and make one's voice heard, freedoms like those we have right here in this Chamber. That ideal will never die.

During these difficult days, Mr. Speaker, let us make sure we are mindful of the sacrifice of so many and let us always rally to the families of the fallen and stand in solidarity with all of our veterans.

VA HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate voted last week to pass comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the long-standing issues within the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system. Now it is time for the Republican House leadership to bring a comprehensive package to the floor.

With more than 8 million veterans turning to the VA for medical care each year, it is absolutely critical that we thoroughly address these issues in a timely fashion. That is why I commend Congresswoman KIRKPATRICK for introducing companion legislation to the Sanders-McCain bill to improve the quality of care within the VA.

Our veterans should not have to endure excessive long waits, tolerate canceled appointments, and question the quality of care they are receiving, nor should the persons reporting these activities be punished. The legislation would increase access to care while also improving on the quality of care, and it is something that we can act upon today.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation will be judged by how we treat our veterans. I urge this Congress to act swiftly on comprehensive legislation so that we

can bring real accountability—and some sanity—back to the VA.

HONORING KANE COUNTY'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kane County Educator of the Year, Carol Mertes of East Aurora School District 131. For Carol, teaching is in her blood. Her grandfather was a principal and her aunt was a teacher in Chicago public schools.

Carol has been an exemplary first grade teacher for decades who has touched many lives through her exceptional teaching skills and care for her students. She has served on the East Aurora District's School Improvement Review Team, Language Arts Curriculum Council, Reading Leaders Committee, and the Reading Task Force.

Teachers like Carol have one of the hardest but most influential jobs in the country. They are in charge of shaping our future generations, and they have the ability to make a huge impact on our youth.

I am grateful for Carol's undying patience and care for our children in Kane County, ensuring that the impact is a positive one.

HONORING JUNETEENTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth.

Each June 19th, we celebrate Juneteenth to commemorate the announcement of the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is a celebration of African American freedom, but it is also an opportunity to reflect on opportunities for self-improvement and set goals for the future.

This past weekend, I was honored to take part in the 39th annual Juneteenth Festival in Buffalo. Started in 1976, this festival has grown over the years to become one of the largest of such celebrations in the world and has established its position as an important tradition within the Buffalo community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Juneteenth today to celebrate our Nation's rich African American history and express my thanks to those who organize these important community celebrations of culture and heritage.

IN FAVOR OF A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, events in Iraq over the past week serve as a

chilling reminder of the fact that the world is not getting safer. I am disturbed by these events, but I am not surprised. Over the past few years, my colleagues and I have warned against our Nation's weakening foreign policy and the devastating defense cuts this President insisted on making on the backs of our men and women in uniform. The result is a strained military and a world where our enemies don't fear us and our friends no longer trust us.

On Monday, the USS *Mesa Verde*, one of our Navy and Marine Corps' amphibious warships in the LPD class, entered the Persian Gulf with 550 marines onboard. These ships have a long history of supporting our missions and responding to numerous threats all around the world. This LPD ship sitting in the Persian Gulf full of marines sends a clear message: we will not waiver in defense of American interests or protecting American lives.

I believe we need to keep sending that message. We must adequately fund our Nation's military, and we must provide for more ships like the LPD class amphibious warships so we can ensure the safety and security of our Nation and those who defend it.

□ 1230

NONDISCRIMINATION FOR LGBT FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the stroke of a pen, President Obama will extend workplace protections to 14 million LGBT Federal contractors.

Thankfully, LGBT San Diegans are already protected by State law, but this is not the case for all Americans.

I applaud the President for doing the right thing. Now it is time for Congress to end discrimination for all workers.

California and 17 other States have shown that these protections aren't just the right thing to do, they are good policy and good business.

Discrimination has no place in government. Discrimination has no place in the work place.

It is past time for Congress to listen to the American people. The Senate has already passed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. Let's bring ENDA to the floor and pass it today.

WISHING MARTELL AND RHONDA MENLOVE ALL THE BEST

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, Utah has some large educational shoes to fill.

Martell Menlove, the State superintendent of public instruction in Utah, is ending a nearly four-decade career in public education. He has

served kids as a classroom teacher, a counselor, and an administrator in the Jordan, Tooele, and Rich districts, and he was my superintendent while I was teaching in the Box Elder district.

Twice he was named Superintendent of the Year in Utah before he joined the State office in 2009.

His wife, State Representative Rhonda Rudd Menlove, is also a career educator and is retiring after five terms in the Utah State legislature.

Utah is losing a great team who inspired kids. They will be missed. We want to wish both Martell and Rhonda all the best in the new adventures they will be taking together.

We thank you for what you have done for kids in Utah.

REMEMBERING JIM ROGERS

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Nevada lost a good man and I lost a good friend this past week when Jim Rogers lost his long battle with cancer at the age of 75.

Those who knew or briefly encountered Jim quickly realized that he had no fear. His business acumen, philanthropic generosity, and ferocious passion for learning made him a true game changer. Whether it was improving higher education or strengthening the integrity of the media, Jim never shied away from his convictions or backed down from his steadfast commitment to progress and quality. He started the conversation, directed the dialogue, and produced results that propelled Nevada, sometimes kicking and screaming, towards a brighter future.

My thoughts go out to his wife, Beverly; his son, his other family members, and the people who worked with him and for him at Channel 3. They brought the world into our living rooms every evening. We will miss him very much and so will they.

CONGRATULATING ACTUATED MEDICAL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Actuated Medical, Incorporated, a Bellefonte, Pennsylvania-based medical device company that focuses on state-of-the-art, minimally invasive instruments, for being selected by the Small Business Administration as a 2014 Tibbetts Award winner.

The SBA presents the Tibbetts award to companies who exemplify the best of the Small Business Innovation Research Program.

Recipients of the Tibbetts award are selected by a panel of judges based upon the economic impact of their innovation, how they supported Federal research and development needs, and

their ability to increase commercialization of Federal research.

As a former Member of the House Small Business Committee, I witnessed firsthand this woman's business enterprise grow from a young start-up to the top National Institutes of Health SBIR-funded company in Pennsylvania for 2013, placing them fifth in the country.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses remain the backbone of our economy, and innovators like Actuated Medical not only create devices that save lives and change the face of modern health care, they also provide good-paying, family-sustaining jobs in our local communities.

I lend my congratulations to everyone at Actuated Medical, Incorporated.

DEPARTURE OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. ALUTTO

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about education today, probably because education is the economic engine of our future.

Ohio State University plays a pivotal role in K-Life education. It is located in my district, and it serves not only my district but the Nation.

Today, I rise to acknowledge Ohio State University's outgoing interim president, Dr. Joseph Alutto, a former colleague and a friend, and to welcome incoming president, Dr. Michael Drake.

Thank you, Joe Alutto, for your leadership in preparing our next generation of teachers, artists, medical, corporate, and community leaders. In an era where innovation in science and technology and creative entrepreneurialism will determine our global station in the world, it is critical that we have capable leaders at the helm of our education and research institutions.

I thank Joseph Alutto for his service to Ohio State University, the single-largest campus university in the country. God speed and good luck.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 629 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 629

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market

certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-47. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my dear friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 629 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 4413. This rule makes in order eight amendments which provide the opportunity for Members of the minority and the majority to participate in this debate.

The legislation before us today reauthorizes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, known as the CFTC,